(b) the steps taken to check such incidents;

(c) whether the private sector banks in metropolitan cities are not extending the cash credit facilities to the poor people/traders and priority sectors; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under the Credit Monitoring Arrangement, banks are required to report to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanction of working capital credit limits of Rs. 10 crore and above from the aggregate banking system. Such sanctions are scrutinised in the RBI on a sample basis. It may not, therefore, be correct to quantify the number of cases of misuse on the basis of this data.

However, RBI have reported that based on random scrutiny of such data, it was revealed that some borrowers in the recent past had diverted working capital fund for other purposes including for investment in finance companies, associate concerns, subsidiaries and inter-corporate deposits. In order to prevent such diversion of funds, RBI have issued suitable instructions to the commercial banks.

(c) and (d). Banks, including private sector banks, are expected to provide need-based working capital finance to the borrowers under various Government sponsored schemes. The performance of old private sector banks in lending to priority sector as a last Friday of March 1995 and September, 1995 respectively (latest available) as reported by RBI, is given below :-

(Rupees in crores)

	March 1995	September 1995
(i) Total priority sector advances	4064	4202
(ii) Total agriculture advances	816	885
(iii) Advances to weaker sections	339	348

Custom Reward Scheme

2631. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of irregularities in claiming rewards under customs reward scheme have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review or have reviewed the performance under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). Government had appointed a Working Group to review various reward schemes in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance including the reward scheme of Customs & Central Excise Department. The Group has submitted its report to the Government which is under consideration.

[Translation]

Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme

2632. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed under the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' during 1996-97 and the amount likely to be spent to achieve the target;

(b) whether the 'Export Intensive Area Scheme' started by the Government in 1994, also intended to encourage the foreign trade;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the results obtained by this scheme; and

(d) if so, the targets fixed during 1994-95 and in 1995-96 under the scheme and achievements made during the above period and the difference between the schemes introduced in 1994 and the new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Government had considered the formulation of a scheme of infrastructure support to Export Intensive Areas in 1994. In the interim, an amount of Rs. 10 crores was released to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu as equity contribution of the Govt. of India in the New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Limited set up for the comprehensive infrastructure development programme at Tirupur.

The objectives sought to be achieved through infrastructure support to Export Intensive Areas have now been incorporated under the Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme.

[English]

Direct Over-Draft facility from RBI

2633. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Delhi Government to allow it to borrow/ take over-draft directly from the Reserve Bank of India; and